

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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VILLAGE OF WAVERLY AWARDED COPS IN SCHOOLS GRANT

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that the Village of Waverly has been awarded a COPS in Schools grant of \$105,621. The grant will help the village's police department to keep a School Resource Officer in local schools.

"We are real happy to have this funding," said Chief Larry Preston. "This COPS in Schools funding allows us to enhance a program that gives our department a strong presence in Waverly's middle school and high school. This will now be a full-time position. This federal grant will also lift the burden of funding this position off the school district's budget, which is good news for school district taxpayers."

School Resource Officers are sworn law enforcement officers who become permanently assigned to a school or school system. Their primary role is to safeguard students by providing a law enforcement presence on campus. Many SROs also teach crime prevention and substance abuse classes, serve as coaches, monitor and counsel troubled students, and ultimately build respect and understanding between law enforcement and students. The grant pays for part of the salary and benefits of the officer over three years. COPS also provides school safety training for the officer and a school administrator.

Waverly has had a part-time officer in the high school and middle school at the school district's expense. The grant will alleviate most of this financial burden while making the position full-time.